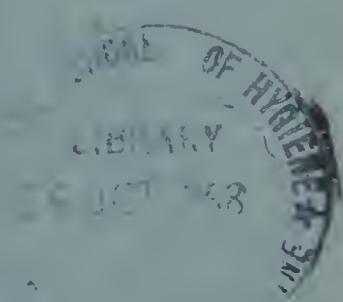


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BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT

on the

Health of the Borough

for the year

1966

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH

FOR THE YEAR

1966

by

D.J.N. McNAB, V.R.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

and

CLEMENT WILLARD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing
Superintendent

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1966.

Councillor R. Affleck (Chairman, January to April) (January - December)

Councillor Miss C. Sharp (Chairman, May to December) (January - December)

The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor E.N.S. Spreadbury (May - December)

Councillor Mrs. I.A. Stevenson (January - December)

Alderman Miss E.I. Padwick (January - December)

Councillor K.L. Smith (January - December)

Councillor M. Lynk (January - December)

Councillor T. Staniforth (January - December)

Councillor Barrington Myers (January - April)

Councillor W.C.F. Horsford (January - December)

Councillor J.S. Morgan (May - December)

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

D.J.N. McNAB, V.R.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Also Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge and Borough of Lymington and an Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of Hampshire.

Address: Druitt Buildings, Christchurch.
Telephone No: Christchurch 900.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

CLEMENT WILLARD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

A.F. Saunders, Cert. S.I.B.

D.J. Cartridge, Cert. S.I.B.

R.F. Blinkhorn, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. (Commenced
13th Feb. 1967)

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 6

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH.

I submit for your information and consideration my twentieth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Borough.

As an integral part of this Report there follows the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector on those sections of the work of the Health Department with which he is specially concerned.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS:

The Borough of Christchurch lies in the south west corner of Hampshire between the County Borough of Bournemouth and the New Forest. The rivers Avon and Stour join below the ancient Priory Church and flow into a vast land locked tidal basin, Christchurch Harbour, beloved of yachtsmen and naturalists. The ancient town shows sharp contrasts between its old houses and the numerous post war housing estates, both private and municipal, between its light industries and its large modern factorics. Development has been rapid in the post war years with steady rises in population, amounting to a 77% increase since the end of the war, very largely by immigration. Further rises in population will result from the development of the former airfield.

There is a wide variety of industry in and around the area.

RAINFALL FOR 1966: (at Sewage Disposal Works, Stony Lane)

		<u>Ins.</u>			<u>Ins.</u>
January...	...	2.03	July	...	2.49
February..	...	3.47	August	...	3.15
March ...	...	0.61	September.	...	1.66
April ...	...	2.95	October...	...	6.01
May ...	...	1.50	November..	...	1.78
June ...	...	1.48	December..	...	1.87
TOTAL: 29 inches.					

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area: 4,807 acres (Census 1961)

Population: Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year 1966: 29,610.

Number of inhabited houses: 10,754.

Rateable Value: 31.3.66: £1,601,961.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £6,350. 5s. 5d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1966: (as supplied by the Registrar-General)

		<u>Borough of</u>	<u>England and</u>
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
		<u>Christchurch</u>	<u>Wales</u>

LIVE BIRTHS:

Total...	...	367	162	205
Legitimate ...		334	147	187
Illegitimate..		33	15	18

LIVE BIRTH RATE: (Comparability factor 1.22)

per 1,000 population	...	...	...	12.4	17.7
after application of comparability factor				15.1	

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Borough of Christchurch</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
--	--------------	-------------	---------------	------------------------------------	------------------------------

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS:

per cent of total live births ... 9.0 7.8

STILL BIRTHS:

Total ...	5	4	1
Legitimate	5	4	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

STILL BIRTH RATE:

per 1,000 total (live and still) births 13.4 15.4

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS: 372.

INFANT DEATHS:

Deaths under one year of age

Total ...	4	3	1
Legitimate	4	3	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths under 4 weeks of age

Total ...	4	3	1
Legitimate	4	3	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths under one week of age

Total ...	3	2	1
Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

INFANT MORTALITY RATE:

per 1,000 live births - Total	10.9	19.0
per 1,000 live births - Legitimate	12.0	...
per 1,000 live births - Illegitimate	Nil	...

Total	Male	Female	Borough of Christchurch	England and Wales
-------	------	--------	----------------------------	----------------------

NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:

(Deaths under 4 weeks)

per 1,000 live births... ... 10.9 12.9

EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:

(Deaths under 1 week)

per 1,000 live births... ... 8.2 11.1

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE:

(Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week combined)

per 1,000 total (live & still) births 21.5 26.3

INTERNAL DEATHS: (Including abortion): Nil

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE:

per 1,000 total (live & still) births Nil 0.26

DEATHS: 460 228 232

DEATH RATE: (Comparability factor 0.71)

per 1,000 population... ... 15.5 11.7
after application of comparability
factor ... 11.0

SPECIAL CAUSES:

Death rate per 1,000 population

Tuberculosis...	...	...	Nil	0.05
Cancer (lung and bronchus)	...	...	0.64	0.56
Cancer (all causes)	...	...	3.00	2.25

CAUSES OF DEATH:Malcs Females

1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory...	...	...	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other...	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease ...	...	...	1	-
4.	Diphtheria...	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infection	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis...	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles ...	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases..			-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	...	...	7	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	16	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast..	...	...	-	10
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus..	...	...	-	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.			16	29
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	...	...	-	-
16.	Diabetes ...	...	...	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	27	29
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	...	...	66	38
19.	Hypertension with heart disease...	...	...	2	4
20.	Other heart disease...	...	...	18	22
21.	Other circulatory disease...	...	...	21	28
22.	Influenza ...	...	...	3	1
23.	Pneumonia ...	...	...	24	25
24.	Bronchitis...	...	...	10	8
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	2	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	-	3
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion...	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	1	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases..			7	12
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	4	2
34.	All other accidents...	...	...	-	2
35.	Suicide ...	...	...	-	4
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	-	-

Total (all causes) 228 232

COMPARITIVE VITAL STATISTICS:

(Since the District was formed in 1932)

Year	Population	Borough of Christchurch			England & Wales		
		I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.
1932	11,250	62.5	17.0	11.3	65.	15.3	12.0
1937	13,540	45.0	14.8	12.5	58	14.9	12.4
1942	15,200	30.0	17.5	13.3	49	15.8	11.6
1947	18,180	30.0	19.7	12.8	41	20.5	12.0
1952	21,290	21.9	14.9	11.0	27.6	15.3	11.3
1957	23,790	9.0	14.0	12.9	23.0	16.1	11.5
1962	26,640	11.9	12.6	15.1	21.4	18.0	11.9
1963	27,180	18.2	14.2	15.2	20.9	18.2	12.2
1964	28,000	7.8	13.6	13.5	20.0	18.4	11.3
1965	28,630	18.5	13.2	14.5	19.0	18.1	11.5
1966	29,610	10.9	12.4	15.5	19.0	17.7	11.7

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE:

The general incidence of notifiable disease was low.

Disease	Number notified
Measles ...	112
Whooping Cough	6
Pneumonia ...	2
Scarlet Fever	3
Dysentery ...	5
Erysipelas...	1
...	

TUBERCULOSIS:

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
No. on Register at 31.12.66...	161	110	17	21	309
No. of new notifications ...	3	2	-	-	5
Transfers from other areas ...	3	2	-	-	5
Deaths...	1	-	-	-	1

LUNG CANCER:

19 deaths occurred from lung cancer, a reduction of 3 on the previous year, but maintaining our average annual deaths at 19.4 over the past five years which compares unfavourably with the average of 13.2 over the previous five. Of the 19 deaths, 10 occurred under the age of 65.

National lung cancer deaths rose by 620 to 27,019 with the rise in female deaths proportionately at a much higher rate than the males, where the rate of increase seems to be flattening out a little. It is perhaps too early to assess the significance of this trend. Smoking remains the principal cause and it is worthwhile repeating what was said by Dr. Robert Logan, Director of the Medical Care Research Unit, University of Manchester at the Royal Society of Health Congress at Eastbourne in April 1967 - "The working man's personal air pollution from cigarette smoking is the common and dominant factor in this self destruction, from coronary catastrophe, lung cancer and bronchitis, at least".

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA:

1. Laboratory facilities.

The Borough is very well served by the Public Health Laboratory at Boscombe, which is under the direction of Dr. G.J.G. King

The following list of specimens from the area, examined at the Laboratory during the year, has been kindly supplied by the Director.

Faeces and Urine	...	80
Ice Cream	...	174
Water	...	72
Food	...	13
Other Sanitary	...	38
Nose and Throat	...	27
Other human..	...	<u>1</u>

405

2. Hospitals.

" Christchurch Hospital - acute and chronic.

The majority of patients from the Borough requiring hospital treatment go to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth.

Cases of infectious disease are treated at Alderney Hospital, Poole.

3. Tuberculosis.

The Chest Clinic is held at Christchurch Hospital. The Chest Physician, Dr. Stuart Robertson, holds a joint appointment with the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council. Dr. Robertson is also Director of the Bournemouth Mass Radiography Unit.

A voluntary Care and After Care Committee covers the area served by the Christchurch Clinic i.e. The Boroughs of Christchurch and Lymington, the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, and a small part of New Forest Rural District. The Committee, under the Chairmanship of Lady Manners is widely representative and continues to give extra comforts to a small number of the older chronic type of patient.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL:

1. Ambulance Service.

The area Ambulance Service is provided from a main station at Lymington with sub-stations at Christchurch and Ringwood. All ambulances are fitted with wireless and are now controlled from a central control at Winchester, to which all requests for ambulance services must be directed.

The Central Ambulance Control,
Queens Road,
Winchester.

Tel: Winchester 61644.

Emergency 999 calls are routed direct to central control.

2. Nursing Services.

Details of Nurses and their areas:-

<u>District served</u>	<u>Name and address</u>	<u>Service</u>
Attached to Dr. Bolton and Dr. Cantlie, also unattached work in Christchurch area not covered by Nurse Mitchell	Miss M. Ellwood, 2, Felton Crescent, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel: Highcliffe 3426	MIDWIFE
Purewell, Mudeford south side of Somerford Road and Friars Cliff.	Miss E. Mitchell, 17, Stanpit, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 1204	DISTRICT NURSE/ MIDWIFE
Area west of River Avon, Central Town Area.	Mrs. Gutheridge, 36, Walcott Avenue, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 729	DISTRICT NURSE
Attached to Drs. Carr, Wyatt and Scott Jupp.	Mrs. Q. Boothby, 50, Hunt Road, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 1091	DISTRICT NURSE/ MIDWIFE
Christchurch south	Miss K. Ella, 13, Edward Road, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 2225	DISTRICT NURSE
Christchurch	Mrs. E.G. Sprackland, 12, Carisbrooke Way, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel: Highcliffe 2433	DISTRICT NURSE (part-time relief)
Christchurch	Mrs. W.M.L. Jones, 77, Jumpers Road, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 383	MIDWIFE (part-time relief)

<u>District served</u>	<u>Name and address</u>	<u>Service</u>
Attached to Dr. Falkner Lee, Dr. Brooks and Dr. Harcourt Webster.	Mrs. I. Sherwood, 2, Bracken Way, Highcliffc, Christchurch. Tel:Highcliffc 3282	DISTRICT NURSE/ MIDWIFE
Attached to Dr. Falkner Lee, Dr. Brooks and Dr. Harcourt Webster.	Miss K.I. Webb, 280, Lymington Road, Highcliffc, Christchurch. Tel:Highcliffc 2061	DISTRICT NURSE/ MIDWIFE AND HEALTH VISITOR
<u>Health Visitors.</u>		
Christchurch West (and attached to Drs. Carr, Wyatt and Scott Jupp).	Mrs. M.A. Tate, 3, Warren Edge Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth. Tel:Bournemouth 47407	
Christchurch East and Hudeford (also unattached work in Highcliffc and Walkford).	Miss E.M. Gibbs, 4, Sandy Lane, Christchurch. Tel:Christchurch 2015	
Somerford and Purewell, also geriatric work in area served by Christchurch Hospital.	Miss E. Sheldon, 97, The Grove, Christchurch. Tel:Christchurch 1260	
Christchurch Chest Clinic Health Visitor (also unattached work in central Christchurch and Burton).	Mrs. E. Stone, 17, Springfield Avenue, Christchurch. Tel:Christchurch 269	
Walkford area.	Miss B. Leadbitter, 36, Fairfield Road, Barton-on-Sea. Tel: New Milton 4744	

3. Home Help Service.

The Christchurch office closed during 1966 and the Divisional Organiser, Mrs. M. Bowler, is now at 12, Express Road, Lyndhurst. Tel: Lyndhurst 2762.

4. Child Welfare Clinics.

<u>Child Welfare Centre</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Christchurch	County Council Health Centre Millhams Street	Every Tuesday 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Somerton	Social Centre Southey Road	Every Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.
Highcliffc	St. Mark's Hall	Third Friday in month at 2.30 p.m.

5. School Health Service.

School medical inspections are carried out periodically by Assistant County Medical Officers and Health Visitors.

Minor ailment and special clinics are held at the Millhams Street Health Centre.

6. Smallpox Vaccination.

Treatment is principally carried out by family doctors but is also available at Child Welfare Centres.

Records for children up to the age of 16 are maintained by your Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the County Medical Officer. Vaccination is free but family doctors normally charge for any certificate required.

Number of Vaccination Record Cards received for 1966

Age	Months				Years			Total
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1 year	2-4	5-15	
Primary Vaccinations	-	-	5	7	175	39	8	234
Re-Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	2	28	30

7. Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis.

Treatment is carried out by family doctors and at Child Welfare Centres and Schools. Records are at present maintained by your Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the County Medical Officer, but plans are in course of preparation for eventual computerisation of the records.

A good response to immunisation has been maintained.

Type of Vaccine	Year of Birth					Others under 16	TOTAL
	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-62		
<u>QUADRILIN</u>							
Primary	1	7	-	-	6	-	14
Re-inforcing	-	1	-	-	2	-	3
<u>DIPHTHERIA- WHOOPING COUGH & TETANUS</u>							
Primary	133	187	17	5	65	1	418
Re-inforcing	-	31	103	24	191	23	372
<u>DIPHTHERIA-TETANUS</u>							
Primary	-	1	1	-	21	4	27
Re-inforcing	-	-	1	-	19	228	248
<u>DIPHTHERIA ONLY</u>							
Primary	-	-	-	-	2	4	6
Re-inforcing	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
<u>POLIOMYELITIS</u>							
Primary	58	212	30	9	30	8	347
Re-inforcing	-	3	3	-	202	12	220

SCHOOLS:

Secondary Schools remain full with large numbers of children taking advantage of the opportunity for a full five year course, progressing in many cases to further advanced education.

The alterations and extensions to Twynham Secondary School have been completed with excellent results.

The open air swimming pools at Christchurch Junior, Highcliffe Junior and Twynham Secondary continue to be fully utilised and the new pool at Somerford Secondary, to serve the Somerford and Mudeford Schools, is nearing completion.

WATER:

Christchurch is supplied with water by the West Hampshire Water Company whose works are situated within the Borough. The Company, in addition, supplies part of Bournemouth the whole of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, part of the New Forest Rural District and part of the Borough of Lymington. Partially treated water in bulk is also pumped to the oil refinery at Fawley.

The raw water is drawn from the River Avon at Christchurch and treated by rapid and slow sand filtration and super chlorination. In addition the Company has a source of supply from deep boreholes in the chalk at Hale Park, some 16 miles north of Christchurch near the Wiltshire border. This supply serves Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District and also supplements the supply in Christchurch.

Raw and treated waters are examined daily at the Company's own water testing laboratory which is in charge of a qualified chemist and bacteriologist. In addition, periodic independent samples are sent to an outside laboratory.

The supply of water to the consumer is constant, of moderate hardness, free from plumbo solvent action, and entirely free from metals.

The Company's records show 10,687 separately assessed domestic dwellings to be supplied from their mains in Christchurch. No standpipes are in use.

A typical result of an examination of the treated water is shown below:-

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received 27.6.66

from WEST HAMPSHIRE WATER COMPANY

Chemical results in parts per million

Appearance: Bright with particles.

Turbidity (A.P.H.A. units): less than 3.

Colour(Hazen): 6. Odour: Nil.

pH: 7.9. Free Carbon Dioxide: 5.

Electric Conductivity: 420. Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C: 280.

Reciprocal Megohms per cm

Chlorine present as Chloride: 16. Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate: 190.

Hardness: Total 230. Carbonate: 190. Non-carbonate: 40.

Nitrate Nitrogen: 4.4 Nitrite Nitrogen: approx. 0.01.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.00. Oxygen Absorbed: 0.70.

Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.03. Residual Chlorine: 0.02.

Metals: Iron, Zinc, Copper, Lead: absent.

Fluoride: absent.

Bacteriological Results

(1 day at 37°C 2 days at 37°C 3 days at 20-22°C

Number of colonies { developing on agar { 5 per ml 6 per ml 2 per ml

Present in Absent from Most probable number

Presumptive Coliform reaction	- ml	100 ml	0 per 100 ml
Bact. coli. (Type 1)	- ml	100 ml	0 per 100 ml
Cl. welchii reaction	100 ml	10 ml	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart for a minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses.

SEWERAGE:

The Christchurch Works remain overloaded, but skilful manipulation of the available plant virtually eliminated nuisance during the year.

The new secondary digesters came into full use.

Owing to delay in Ministry approval, the work of enlargement of the Works could not commence as early as had been anticipated. Work eventually started in April 1967 and is expected to take about 2 years. The enlargement makes provision for future increases in the population of Christchurch and for the drainage of a further area of the adjoining Rural District. Relief to the drying beds has been obtained by the removal by tanker, and the spreading on farm land, of fully digested sludge.

The Jumpers Scheme is nearing completion.

A draft scheme for Mudford has been approved and a detailed scheme is in the course of preparation.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES:

Routine supervision of food premises has continued, and it is hoped that the appointment of the further additional public health inspector will enable more time to be given to this work. Standards remain good and relations between traders and the Health Department satisfactory.

HOUSING:

285 private houses were built during the year as compared with 363 in 1965. In addition, 42 dwellings were constructed for old people by the Christchurch Old People's Welfare and Housing Society. Council construction consisted of 107 units of accommodation.

The following details relating to housing accommodation and the current waiting list have been kindly supplied by the Housing Officer - Mrs. M. Clark.

Families housed in Council accommodation: 149.

There were 283 applicants on the housing list, made up as follows:-

<u>No. in family</u>	<u>No. of applicants</u>	<u>Total personnel</u>
1	17	17
2	102	204
3	75	225
4	41	164
5	11	55
6	2	12
7	2	14
	<u>250</u>	<u>691</u>

Applications from Revvo Castor Co: 3

Demolitions: 4

Applicants for Old People's Dwellings

Strctc Mount	8
Gordon Mount	7
Rutland and	
Sydney Roads	11

Applicants on General List

<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
277	259	316	292	283

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948: SECTION 47:

No action was required under this Section.

GENERAL REMARKS:

The health of the Borough was satisfactory throughout the year.

The incidence of infectious disease was low.

The estimated mid-year population increased by 980 to 29,610, the largest annual increase since 1947-48. Deaths exceeded births by 93 and therefore there would appear to have been over 1,000 immigrants during the year.

The birth rate fell for the third successive year and remains far below the national average.

The infant mortality rate was remarkably low.

There was a sharp rise in the number of deaths, and the death rate was the highest since 1959. 50% of all deaths were inhabitants aged 75 or over.

My sincere thanks are due to colleagues in other departments for their advice and assistance, and above all to the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal co-operation at all times.

D.J.N. McNAB.

May, 1967.

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

R E P O R T

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

AND

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

FOR THE YEAR

1966

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

I have pleasure in presenting to you my second Annual Report covering the work of the Department during the year ending 31st December 1966. This is the first full year in which the Department has been under my direction.

During the year the Council wisely agreed to the appointment of an additional Public Health Inspector and, fortunately, we were able to secure the services of a qualified inspector within a short space of time. With this addition to our staff we are obviously more able to cope with the work of the Department.

HOUSING.

Last year I reported that this important part of our work was not, in my opinion, receiving sufficient attention. During the year we have been able to carry out more inspections and, as a result, five demolition orders were served and eight properties have been repaired.

I am by no means satisfied with the effort that is being made to deal with our older homes, and it is my intention to devote more time to this matter.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

Food hygiene should concern everyone, and I am not happy about the apparent lack of interest in this subject by the general public. In the course of a year we receive very few complaints and my observations have shown that many people are either afraid or cannot be bothered to complain about dirty practices or unsound foods. In the first instance it is advisable to complain only to the manager or person in charge and not to the shop assistant, but if anyone is not inclined to make the complaint himself he should report the matter to the Public Health Department where it will receive attention.

Your Inspectors are periodically inspecting all food premises to ensure that a high standard of hygiene is maintained.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Food of all descriptions is inspected at the request of any trader in the area. If any shopkeeper has any doubts about the fitness of any food he has simply to contact the Department. The food will be inspected and he will be advised accordingly. Should the food prove to be unsound it is taken away to be buried in the refuse tip under the supervision of the Inspector.

The following is a list of food condemned during the year.

Meat	2cwts. 0qrs. 11 lbs.
Cooked Meat and Meat Products	5cwts. 0qrs. 15 lbs.
Canned Meat	6cwts. 3qrs. 4 lbs.
Other foods	- 1qr. 0 lbs.
Mixed tins Fruit, Fish and Vegetables	1070 tins
packets Frozen Foods due to breakdowns in refrigeration	1071 packets

SAMPLING.

The sampling of food and drugs for adulteration is the responsibility of the County Council. Their Chief Inspector, Mr. J.S. Preston, performs these duties, and I am indebted to him for the following details of samples taken during the year ended 31st March 1967.

"The scheme for the sampling of foodstuffs for pesticide residues came into operation on the 1st August 1966, and will operate for two years, each being divided into three four-monthly periods. It is intended that thirty samples will be procured each year, ten during each of the four-monthly periods. Up to the end of March 1967 the requisite twenty samples were obtained within the County area, excluding the areas of separate Food and Drugs Authorities. The detailed results of these samples will be given after the scheme has been completed, but so far no evidence of contamination has been found.

During the year ended 31st March 1967, 92 samples were procured under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, within the Borough of Christchurch.

Milk Samples.

35 samples of milk, including 11 "Channel Islands", were taken. Of these three were below the required fat content, but they were from individual churns of milk included in larger consignments and, the average fat content of the consignments being in each case above the required limit, no offences were involved.

Miscellaneous Samples.

57 samples of articles other than milk were obtained, three being the subject of adverse reports. Two of the reports related to samples of chicken and mushroom and steak and kidney pies. The former contained a smaller proportion of meat than the minimum considered appropriate for this type of product and, whilst the steak and kidney pie was satisfactory with regard to meat content, no significant amount of kidney was present. Both articles affected the same manufacturer but samples of three other products from this source were up to the required standard. It was thought that the relatively minor discrepancies involved in the first two samples had been caused by insufficient mixing of the "filling" in the pies and appropriate representations were made to the manufacturer.

The other complaint concerned a so-called fruit juice powder, which did not contain any significant amount of dehydrated fruit juice. Also, a small proportion of sodium cyclamate was present, this being an artificial sweetener permitted in soft drinks but not in other foods. The article was of foreign origin and when the complaints were taken up with the importer it appeared that he had been misled as to the composition of the product, although he had failed to take the obviously necessary precaution of having a check made before distributing the powder. The circumstances did not appear to warrant legal proceedings but the importer was required to undertake re-labelling of the substantial stocks of the product which he held before any further sales.

General.

During routine visits to traders attention was given to the requirements of the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, with regard to their application to the labelling and description of food and drugs. No matters calling for special comment occurred within the Borough."

MILK SUPPLY.

Other than a slight decrease in the number of persons retailing milk, the position is much the same as in the previous year, all milk retailed in the Borough being bottled at establishments outside your district.

The following list shows the number of dairies and persons registered as distributors, and the number and type of licences in force:-

Number of distributors of milk	79
Number of dairies on register	3
Dealers licensed to use the designation	
Untreated Milk	12
Dealers licensed to use the designation	
Pasteurised Milk	69
Dealers licensed to use the designation	
Sterilised Milk	31
Dealers licensed to use the designation	
Ultra Heat Treated Milk	1

ICE CREAM.

The Department has continued to obtain regular samples of ice cream and I am pleased to report that these were of a very high standard.

167 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, the results being as follows:-

Grade 1	150
Grade 2	9
Grade 3	5
Grade 4	3

DRAINAGE.

All new drainage work is carefully supervised and tested by your Inspectors on receipt of notification from the builders, and existing drains are dealt with on complaint.

The number of properties not drained to sewers, and the facilities available are:-

Draining to Septic Tanks	94
Draining to Cesspools	54
Bucket Latrines ..	25

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

It is important that Caravan Sites should be kept under strict control and we have powers which enable us to do this.

More time has been given to this particular section of our work but I am still not satisfied that sufficient progress is being made.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Regular inspections have been carried out on all premises coming within the scope of this Act, and this year has been spent mainly in getting outstanding Notices complied with.

There are still a number of Notices outstanding and it is to be hoped that the persons who have received them will have them complied with as soon as possible in order to avoid any further action being taken by the Council.

The premises registered at the end of the year were as follows:-

Offices	97
Retail shops	239
Wholesale shops, Warehouses ..	5
Catering establishments ..	43
Fuel storage depots ..	2

Class of workplace and the number of persons employed:-

Offices	463
Retail shops	875
Wholesale departments, Warehouses	54
Catering establishments	296
Fuel storage depots	6

A total of 1,694, of which 969 are females.

SWIMMING POOLS.

Regular samples were taken of all swimming pools within the area and steps taken where necessary to ensure that they were at all times safe for bathing purposes. 29 samples were taken during the year.

Paddling Pools were also sampled and this enabled us to ensure that they were kept up to a satisfactory standard. 28 samples were taken.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) Refuse Collection.

The year has been one of high activity - rounds have been re-organised and a bonus scheme introduced. No effort has been spared in an attempt to hoist the refuse collection service out of the doldrums. As a result, there has been a tremendous improvement and a return to a regular weekly collection has virtually been achieved. Unfortunately, the regularity of the service is still being disrupted by sickness, vehicle breakdowns and labour difficulties. The labour situation has improved but we are still dependent upon a certain amount of casual labour which is extremely unreliable.

I am inclined to the view that all refuse, be it old furniture, old cars and garden refuse, etc., should be removed by the Council. Unfortunately, the collection of this additional refuse can be rather expensive and a special sum would have to be set aside for the purpose. In the meantime, special collections are arranged at the request of occupiers for which a reasonable charge is made. Any ratepayer may also deposit refuse on the Stanpit tip.

(b) Refuse Disposal.

Refuse is being disposed of at a reasonably low cost by controlled tipping on the land at Stanpit Marsh. Difficulty in controlling the tip has been experienced this year because the present tractor is extremely inefficient. When the new tractor is delivered full advantage will be taken of it to secure a general improvement of the tip area. It is also intended in the future to carry out regular spraying of the tip to help prevent the breeding of flies and other pests.

(c) Transport.

This has been a sorry year for transport. The number of breakdowns and the cost of repairs have far exceeded our expectations. The approval of the purchase of a new vehicle for the coming year will help the situation and every effort is being made to ensure that the remaining older vehicles are properly maintained. A steadily increasing proportion of the repair and maintenance work is now being carried out by the Council's staff.

SALVAGE.

The Salvage Section has been completely reorganised during the year. The existing shed has been modified in a number of ways to fit in with the new baling equipment.

In spite of the many difficulties encountered, particularly during the first half of the year, the salvage income was increased from £683 to £3,386.

Unfortunately, the credit squeeze is having its effect and the sale of waste paper has become extremely difficult. It is hoped that it will not be long before the demand for waste paper will increase and, should this happen, we can expect to see the income figure exceeded.

RODENT CONTROL.

The control of rodents and other pests is continually with us, and your Pest Officer has devoted most of his time to this work. He has also assisted the Public Health Inspectors whenever possible on various duties connected with the Department.

During the year Mr. R.H. Cox left to take up an appointment with the Hampshire County Council after fifteen years with the Council. Mr. B.R. Dennis from London Port Health Authority replaced him.

Total number of premises infested and treated during the year	620
Total number of visits during the year	1580

FACTORIES.

There are 120 in the Borough and your Inspectors made 122 visits to these during the year for various purposes.

To maintain a satisfactory standard of hygiene, particularly in relation to sanitary conveniences and canteens, it is important that these premises should be inspected regularly, and it is hoped that the number of visits will now be increased.

GENERAL.

In this Report I have mentioned a few of the multifarious duties dealt with by the Department. Many other duties are initiated by a steady stream of complaints of all descriptions and the amount of work in which they are likely to involve us is completely unpredictable.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health, fellow officials in all Departments, and members of the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal support and co-operation.

CLEMENT WILLARD

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

Stour Cottage,
20 Barrack Road,
Christchurch,
Hants.

July 1967.

T A B L E 1.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Housing Visits	323
Housing Overcrowding	19
Drainage Visits	1739
Nuisances	328
Food Premises	720
Food Vehicles	4
Food Poisoning	7
Unsound Food	122
Licensed Premises	104
Dairies	10
Infectious Diseases	76
Verminous Premises	38
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	732
Factories	122
Outworkers	108
School Canteens	13
Public Conveniences	91
Vans, Tents, etc.	26
Camping Sites	57
Shops (Shops Act)	425
Dustbins and Paper Sacks	554
Refuse Collection and Disposal	375
Salvage	221
Pest Control	1580
Closet Accommodation	23
Pet Animals Act	7
Ponds, Ditches and Streams	24
Places of Entertainment	2
Septic Tanks and Cesspools	55
Foreshore	2
Unclassified	98

SAMPLES AND SPECIMENS TAKEN

Ice Cream	174
Ice Cream Server Rinse Water	12
Shell Fish	1
Pet Foods	7
Drinking Water	3
Swimming Baths	29
Paddling Pools	28
Cesspools	23
Faecal Specimens	20

T A B L E 2.

The following statement shows in detail work carried out under the supervision of the Department.

(a) Drainage and Sanitary Fittings.

Number of new buildings drained	242
Number of houses and premises redrained	5
Repairs or amendments to existing drains	4
Drains or gullies unstopped and cleansed	9
Length in yards stoneware drains laid	9814
Manholes and covers provided	581
Intercepting traps fixed	1
New Gully traps fixed	544
Soil pipes and vent shafts fixed	87
Water tests applied	484
Smoke tests applied	74
Air tests applied	19
Cesspools abolished and drains connected to sewer	6
Cesspools emptied	1
Cesspools constructed	4
New W.C. accommodation provided	275
New W.C. apartments provided	273
New W.C. pedestals provided	273
W.C.'s cleansed and repaired	13
New flushing cisterns provided	273
Flushing cisterns repaired	1
Baths provided	271
Sinks provided	266
New waste pipes trapped	787
Wash-hand basins provided	272
Ventilation of W.C. apartments and bathrooms	2

(b) Miscellaneous.

Eaves gutters and downpipes renewed or repaired	4
Damp walls remedied	4
Windows repaired or renewed	3
Doors repaired or renewed	4
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	3
Chimney stacks repaired/repointed	1
Floorboards repaired or renewed	1
Nuisance - smoke and fumes	2
Nuisance - accumulation of manure or refuse	9
Nuisance - noise	2
Rooms disinfected	4
Clothing disinfected	1
Premises disinfested	30
Dustbins provided	59

T A B L E 3.

During the year complaints were received as detailed below:-

Rats and Mice	377
Food	55
Defective dustbin, or absence of	83
Smells	12
Choked drains	5
Defective chimney stack	1
Defective roof	4
Defective W.C.	1
Defective Fireplace	3
Defective walls	1
Defective windows and doors	2
General defects	3
Dampness	10
Unsatisfactory/dirty domestic conditions	3
Insanitary conditions - toilets	1
Fleas and bugs	5
Accumulation of refuse	7
Stream pollution	1
Nuisance from caravans	1
Nuisance from smoke or fumes	4
Nuisance from noise	8
Nuisance from animals, birds, adders	7

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED.

Table 4 shows the action taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the removal of conditions prejudicial to health.

T A B L E 4.

NOTICES	OUTSTANDING 31.12.65.	NUMBER SERVED	COMPLIED WITH	WORK DONE BY L.A. IN DEFAULT	OUTSTANDING 31.12.66.
Informal	5	126	88	-	43
Statutory	-	3	1	-	2
TOTAL:	5	129	89	-	45

SUMMARY OF STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED:-

Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936 3

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1966 FOR

THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH IN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the
Factories Act, 1937.

PART I of the ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

PREMISES:	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	2	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	111	120	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	120	122	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred: To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	2	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
 TOTAL:	5	3	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111)

NATURE OF WORK	Section 110		Section 111	
	No. of Out- workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Prosecutions	Notices Served
Wearing Apparel	1	-	-	-
Plastics - Fancy Goods	29	-	-	-
TOTAL:	30	-	-	-